

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3453–S3545

Measures Introduced: Eleven bills and four resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 946–956, S. Res. 114–116, and S. Con. Res. 22. **Pages S3516–17**

Measures Considered:

Budget Resolution: Senate continued consideration of S. Con. Res. 21, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2008 and including the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 and 2009 through 2012, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3453–S3512**

Adopted:

Collins Amendment No. 480, to provide for a deficit-neutral reserve fund for permanently extending and increasing the above-the-line deduction for teacher classroom supplies and expanding such deduction to include qualified professional development expenses. **Pages S3471–75**

By 97 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 82), Baucus Amendment No. 492, to provide tax relief to middle class families and small businesses and to expand health insurance coverage for children. **Pages S3468–71, S3503–04**

By 63 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. 84), Cornyn Amendment No. 477, to provide for a budget point of order against legislation that increases income taxes on taxpayers, including hard-working middle-income families, entrepreneurs, and college students. **Page S3504**

By a unanimous vote of 98 yeas (Vote No. 87), Bunning/Enzi Amendment No. 483, to provide a point of order against any budget resolution that fails to achieve an on-budget balance within 5 years. **Pages S3458–61, S3505–06**

By 97 yeas to 1 nay (Vote No. 88), Bingaman Amendment No. 486, to provide additional funding resources in FY 2008 for investments in innovation and education in order to improve the competitiveness of the United States. **Pages S3461–64, S3500, S3504–05**

Rejected:

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 83), Kyl/Graham Amendment No. 507, to protect families, family farms and small businesses by raising the death tax exemption to \$5 million and reducing the maximum death tax rate to no more than 35%, to extend college tuition deduction, to extend the student loan interest deduction, to extend the teacher classroom deduction, to protect senior citizens from higher taxes on their retirement income, to maintain U.S. financial market competitiveness, and to promote economic growth by extending the lower tax rates on dividends and capital gains. **Pages S3494–98, S3504**

By 46 yeas to 52 nays (Vote No. 85), Sessions Modified Amendment No. 466, to exclude the extension of tax relief provided in 2001 and 2003 from points of order provided in the resolution and other budget points of order. **Page S3505**

By 47 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. 86), Ensign Amendment No. 476, to ensure that our troops serving in harm's way remain America's top budget priority by ensuring full funding for the Department of Defense within the regular appropriations process, reducing reliance on supplemental appropriations bills, and by improving the integrity of the Congressional budget process. **Pages S3454–58, S3505**

Pending:

DeMint Amendment No. 489, to establish a reserve fund for Social Security reform. **Pages S3464–66**

Allard Amendment No. 491, to pay down the Federal debt and eliminate government waste by reducing spending on programs rated ineffective by the Program Assessment Rating Tool. **Pages S3466–68**

Grassley/Dorgan Amendment No. 464, to limit farm payments to \$250,000 per person per year and apply the savings to renewable energy/rural development, conservation, and nutrition. **Pages S3482–83, S3488**

Grassley Amendment No. 502, to ensure the appropriate use of funds provided for the Smithsonian Institution. **Pages S3483–87**

Baucus/Rockefeller Amendment No. 504, to affirm the Senate's commitment to the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program. **Pages S3487–94**

Cornyn Amendment No. 511, to provide a deficit-neutral reserve fund for the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) that will cover kids first. **Pages S3498–S3503**

Hutchison Amendment No. 517, to provide tax equity for citizens of states which do not have a state income tax by providing for a permanent extension of the state and local sales tax deduction from federal income taxes, now scheduled to expire at the end of 2007. **Pages S3506–12**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate continue consideration of the resolution at 9:30 a.m., on Thursday, March 22, 2007.

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Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

W. Craig Vanderwagen, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, Department of Health and Human Services. **Page S3545**

Messages from the House: **Page S3516**

Measures Referred: **Page S3516**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3517–18**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3519–34**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3515–16**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3534–44**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S3544–45**

Privileges of the Floor: **Page S3545**

Record Votes: Seven record votes were taken today. (Total—88) **Pages S3503, S3504, S3505, S3506**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:15 a.m., and adjourned at 7:52 p.m., until 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 22, 2007. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3545.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

2007 FARM BILL

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the performance of the United States trade and food aid programs for the 2007 Farm Bill, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Yost, Administrator of the Foreign Agricultural Service, Department of Agriculture; William Hammink, Director, Office of Food for Peace, United States Agency for International Development; Thomas Melito, Director, International Affairs and Trade, Governmental Account-

ability Office; Charles Sandefur, Alliance for Food Aid, Washington, D.C.; Tim Hamilton, Food Export Association of the Midwest USA, McLean, Virginia, on behalf of the Coalition to Promote U.S. Agricultural Exports; David Kauck, CARE USA, Richmond, Vermont; and Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual, Exeter.

APPROPRIATIONS: AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael W. Wynne, Secretary, and General T. Michael Moseley, Chief of Staff, USAF, both of the United States Air Force.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the Department of Energy, after receiving testimony from Raymond L. Orbach, Under Secretary of Energy for Science.

APPROPRIATIONS: THE JUDICIARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2008 for the federal judiciary, after receiving testimony from Julia S. Gibbons, Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit Chair of the Budget Committee of the Judicial Conference; and James C. Duff, Director, Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts.

POLICY OPTIONS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded a hearing to examine nuclear and strategic policy options, after receiving testimony from Robert L. Gallucci, Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Washington, D.C.; Sidney B. Drell, Stanford University, Palo Alto, California; and Keith B. Payne, Missouri State University Graduate Department of Defense and Strategic Studies, Fairfax, Virginia.

IRAN SANCTIONS

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine assessing the effectiveness of the current United States' sanctions on Iran relating to minimizing potential threats from Iran, after receiving testimony from R. Nicholas Burns, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs; Stuart Levey, Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence; and